

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-14, 16, and 18-20, as amended, are pending in this application. In this Response, Applicants have amended certain claims. For example, claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include the subject matter that the Examiner indicated as allowable. To maintain consistency with these amendments, claims 2-3, 15, and 17 have been cancelled. Moreover, several claims have been amended to overcome formalities or to change dependency in light of the claim amendments.

In light of the Office Action, Applicants believe that the amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents. As no new matter has been added by the amendments herein, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments at this time.

THE OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 4 for various formalities. As suggested by the Examiner, the language in claim 4 has been amended. Moreover, claim 3 has been cancelled in light of the amendment to independent claim 1. In view of the claim amendment and cancellation, Applicants submit that the Examiner's objections have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

THE REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

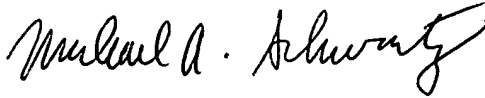
At pages 2-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 8-11, 14-16, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. However, at page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that claims 3-7, 12-13, and 17-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. In order to facilitate allowance, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the features previously recited in claims 2 and 3, and independent claim 14 has been amended to include the features previously recited in claims 15 and 17. In view of these claim amendments, Applicants submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are moot. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the present amendments still do not resolve all of the issues regarding patentability of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any remaining issues.

A Petition for a one-month Extension of Time is submitted herewith, extending the time to respond to and including February 6, 2006. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 15772.0006.

Respectfully submitted,
SWIDLER BERLIN LLP



Dated: February 6, 2006

By: _____

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